Over One Thousand Vessels Are Now Under Commission.

Gives Details of Steps Taken to Prepare Navy for

War.

(By Associated Press)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.-A recital prepared for war by adding several hundreds ships to the fleet and letting contracts for hundreds of others, inplanation of the operation of the navy supply department by Rear Admiral a House sub-committee into the navy's "ugar.
"The reason is this: Spreckels and

department has received any com- sugar concerns. aints from Vice Admiral Sims, com manding the American naval forces in the war zone. The Secretary said the question was improper and that "mess

order issued by him some months ago. directing that Admiral Sims' requests

"We have 424 ships in course of con-struction," Secretary Daniels told the commission.

"That does not include submarine chasers, of which we are building 350 and does not include the small craft. The chasers will be in service by early

Included in the 424 ships, he said, were battle cruisers, battle ships, scout cruisers, destroyers, fuel ships, gun boats, hospital ships, ammunition ips, sea going tubs, mine sweepers and submarines.

The navy at the beginning of its participation in the war, the witness continued, had at its disposal the monby needed for most of the expansion immediately required and in pressing cases where funds were lacking overfor \$86,000,000 in addition to the reg-plar estimates amounting to \$1,039. \$00,000 for the next fiscal year, now fore the House Navat committee. Secretary Daniels said the navy now had more than one thousand ships in Hoover.

"Has the navy measured up?" he sked. "It is my firm belief at the close of the investigation your answer will be 'It has and the con every reason to repose confidence in

Food Administration Spoiled a Bully Chance to Make War Profits.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.-Claus A. Spreckels, president of the Federal Sugar Refining Co., who attacked the Hoover food administration in a congressional hearing at Washington is

the "candy kid" of the sugar world.
"He's the 'candy kid' all right," remarked an old raw sugar importer at by Secretary Daniels of how the navy the Coffee Exchange, where they speculate in "paper sugar," stock of sugar companies.

"Of course he's sore because Hoover contracts for hundreds of others, in-queered the Cuba game. That's what cluding dreadnaughts, battle cruisers, he did, queered the nice little war pfordestroyers and auxiliaries, and an ex-its game Spreckles, the 'candy kid,' and J. H. Post and W. H. Childs, the 'Cuba cane boys,' had rigged up when along came Hoover and smashed their McGowan, paymaster general, marked golden dream to smithereens by fixing the opening yesterday of the inquiry by a price of \$6.90 a hundred on imported

The sub-committee adjourned last bight without fixing any time for rescore of companies bringing raw sugar suming the hearing and probably will into the market. Post is a member not meet again until after Christmas. of the New Niquero, the Guantanamo, Representative Britten, of Illinois, the Fijardo, the Cuban American, and naked Secretary Daniels whether the the Central Aguirre, among other raw

"Spreckels is in the Cuban Cane Corporation, the Manati Sugar Co., and others handling the raw product.

"All their raw sugar would have gossip" should not be bandled about but he added that Admiral Sims had been given everything possible that havy department could give.

"All their raw sigar would have come into the United States, going to their own refineries and others including refineries of the trust—the American Sugar Refining Co.—and the price come into the United States, going to Later, when Admiral McGowan was would have been far above the \$6.90—called to the stand he submitted an Hoover's price. Spreckels and Post, along with all others owning Cuban raw sugar concerns would have reapfor supplies he acted upon on the cd oceans of profits. They'd made same day tsey were received. on their raw sugar even if Hoover had held down their profits on refining it.
"I am not surprised that Spreckels

tried to take a whack at Hoover."

Last July Spreckles of Federal. Cuban Cane and Manati, speaking to the stockholders of the Federal, said:

"In fortifying the company's reserves your executives are not influenced by any apprehension that the present highly satisfactory condition will terminate with the close of hostilities abroad.'

Then Spreckles was figuring on selling his Cuban raw to his United States refineries and making a big profit twice.

A miniature revolution in Cuba was highly advertised. Frost in cane-brakes were told of. A failure of the American beet sugar crop was predicted. Prices shot upward. The Cuban bbligations were incurred. Within the cd. Prices shot upward. The Cuban last few days the navy has had to ask crowd—Spreckles is the "candy kid" of that crowd-expected 10-cent raw sugar, or even more. That would have meant 20 to 30 cents for the refined. Hoover spoiled both dreams

Now the Cuban crowd would



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